

Express Mail No. EV 622 976 709 US
Appl. No. 09/848,112
Reply to Office action of February 22, 2005

REMARKS

I. Amendments to the Claims

Prior to entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 24, 26, 30, and 32-39 are pending in the above-referenced application. Following entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 24, 26, 30, and 32-40 will be pending.

Claim 30 is amended herein in accordance with suggestions from the Examiner in the Office action of February 22, 2005. New independent claim 40 is added herein, which represents dependent claim 33 rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of previously pending independent base claim 30 and dependent claim 32.

II. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter and Objections to Claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 24, 26, and 39 contain allowable subject matter, and for suggested amendments to claim 30 that make the claim patentably distinguishable over the art of record in the present application. As previously mentioned, claim 30 is amended herein in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 33 would be allowable if appropriately rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. As previously mentioned, new independent claim 40 added herein represents dependent claim 33 rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of previously pending independent base claim 30 and dependent claim 32.

Therefore, claims 24, 26, 30, and 32-40 are believed to be in form for allowance, and such indication is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office action, claims 30, 32, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roland (U.S. Pat. No. 799,270); claims 30, 32, and 36-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (U.S. Pat. No. 108,401); and claims 30, 34, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Berne (U.S. Pat. No. 2,921,791).

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As discussed above, independent claim 30 is amended herein in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, rendering the rejections of claim 30 moot. As such, claim 30 is believed to be in form for allowance, and such indication is respectfully requested. Claims 32, 34, and 36-38 depend from and include all the limitations of claim 30. As such, claims 32, 34, and 36-38 are believed to be in form for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 30, and such indication is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office action, claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roland in view of Webber et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,579,213).

As discussed above, independent claim 30 is amended herein in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claim 35 depends from and includes all the limitations of claim 30. As such, claim 35 is believed to be in form for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 30, and such indication is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

For at least the various reasons discussed herein, it is believed that claims 24, 26, 30, and 32-40 are in form for allowance, and such indication is respectfully requested.

A petition for a three month extension of time to respond to the February 22, 2005 Office action is hereby requested, making this Amendment and Response due on or before Monday, August 22, 2005. A check in the amount of \$1,200.00 is enclosed herewith to cover the \$1,020.00 three-month extension of time fee and the \$180.00 fee for the enclosed Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and Statement of Relatedness. It is believed no further petitions or fees are due with respect to filing of this Amendment. Should any such petitions or fees be necessary, however, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 accordingly.

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Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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